

What is claimed is:

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Hartens

1 1. A reclining seat comprising:
2 a seat cushion;
3 a seat back pivotally mounted on said seat cushion and having
4 a center of rotation; and
5 a reclining mechanism for inclining said seat back relative to
6 said seat cushion, said reclining mechanism having a center of rotation
7 spaced apart from the center of rotation of the seat back,
8 wherein the center of rotation of said seat back is positioned
9 closer than the center of rotation of said reclining mechanism to a seat
10 occupant.

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1 2. The reclining seat according to claim 1, wherein said seat
2 cushion has a seat cushion frame accommodated therein and said reclining
3 mechanism comprises first and second links having respective first ends
4 rotatably mounted on said seat cushion frame and also having respective
5 second ends connected to each other, and wherein the first end of said first
6 link is employed as the center of rotation of said seat back, while the first
7 end of said second link is employed as the center of rotation of said reclining
8 mechanism.

1 3. The reclining seat according to claim 2, further comprising a
2 sector gear connected to the first end of said second link and a worm gear
3 rotatably mounted on said seat cushion and being in mesh with said sector
4 gear, wherein each of said sector gear and said worm gear has a lead angle
5 greater than an angle of friction thereof, and wherein when locking of said
6 worm gear has been released, said seat back is inclined by applying a force
7 to said seat back.

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1 4. The reclining seat according to claim 3, further comprising a
2 lock member mounted on said seat cushion and having internal teeth

3 formed therein, wherein said worm gear has external teeth formed at a
4 portion thereof and is locked when the external teeth thereof is in mesh
5 with the internal teeth of said lock member, and wherein said worm gear is
6 locked or unlocked by moving said lock member in a direction axially of said
7 worm gear.

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